

ASG's Education Costs Estimates

Estimated Costs for a Student Starting University in 2015

National Averages

		Years of Study															
Band 3 ²		3				4				5				6			
Career		Accountant				Lawyer				Vet				Doctor			
Course Costs	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2017) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2017) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2018) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2018) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2019) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2019) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2020) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2020) ¹	
		\$10,266	\$32,453	\$10,266	\$32,453	\$10,266	\$44,433	\$10,266	\$44,433	\$10,266	\$57,046	\$10,266	\$57,046	\$10,266	\$70,325	\$10,266	\$70,325
Living Option	Family home		Shared renting for 3 people		Family home		Shared renting for 3 people		Family home		Shared renting for 3 people		Family home		Shared renting for 3 people		
Living Costs	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	
	\$11,023	\$33,487	\$27,129	\$83,794	\$11,023	\$44,938	\$27,129	\$113,410	\$11,023	\$56,542	\$27,129	\$143,940	\$11,023	\$68,306	\$27,129	\$175,428	
Total Costs	\$21,289	\$65,940	\$37,395	\$116,247	\$21,289	\$89,371	\$37,395	\$157,843	\$21,289	\$113,588	\$37,395	\$200,986	\$21,289	\$138,631	\$37,395	\$245,753	

		Years of Study							
Band 2 ²		3				4			
Career		Horticulturist				Engineer			
Course Costs	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2017) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2017) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2018) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2018) ¹	
		\$8,768	\$27,718	\$8,768	\$27,718	\$8,768	\$37,950	\$8,768	\$37,950
Living Option	Family home		Shared renting for 3 people		Family home		Shared renting for 3 people		
Living Costs	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	
	\$11,023	\$33,487	\$27,129	\$83,794	\$11,023	\$44,938	\$27,129	\$113,410	
Total Costs	\$19,791	\$61,205	\$35,897	\$111,512	\$19,791	\$82,888	\$35,897	\$151,360	

		Years of Study							
Band 1 ²		3				4			
Career		Photographer				Psychologist			
Course Costs	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2017) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2017) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2018) ¹	1st year costs (2015 only)	Total costs (2015 to 2018) ¹	
		\$6,152	\$19,448	\$6,152	\$19,448	\$6,152	\$26,627	\$6,152	\$26,627
Living Option	Family home		Shared renting for 3 people		Family home		Shared renting for 3 people		
Living Costs	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	2015	Total ¹	
	\$11,023	\$33,487	\$27,129	\$83,794	\$11,023	\$44,938	\$27,129	\$113,410	
Total Costs	\$17,175	\$52,935	\$33,281	\$103,242	\$17,175	\$71,565	\$33,281	\$140,037	

*NOTES:

*The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) provides these estimates as a guide only. ASG cannot guarantee that they will represent the costs of education for a particular child.

*ASG's University Costs Calculator is based on the costs associated with studying in a Commonwealth Supported Place at university in Australia.

*While full-fee paying places are available at some universities, this calculator does not include estimates for these places. In addition, it does not provide estimates on TAFE or the VET sector where the disparity of fees and charges would not make it possible to provide accurate costs estimates into the future.

*These figures have been rounded to the nearest dollar amount.

¹The impact of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases have been considered in calculating all total figures, and where applicable the relevant sub-index group has been applied accordingly to estimated costs.

²The Government groups different areas of study into 'Bands' and it sets a minimum and maximum range that can be charged on a full-time study load. This means that higher education providers set the student contribution amount. It cannot exceed the maximum rate set by the Government, and most providers charge the maximum rate.

How ASG's University Costs Estimates Were Calculated

General information and assumptions:	<p>*The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) provides these estimates as a guide only. ASG cannot guarantee they will represent the costs of education for each student.</p> <p>*ASG's University Costs Calculator is based on the costs associated with studying in a Commonwealth Supported Place at university in Australia.</p> <p>*While full-fee paying places are available at some universities, this calculator does not include estimates for these places. In addition, it does not provide estimates on TAFE or the VET sector where the disparity of fees and charges would not make it possible to provide accurate costs estimates into the future.</p> <p>*These figures have been rounded to the nearest dollar amount.</p> <p>*The impact of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases have been considered in calculating all total figures, and where applicable the relevant sub-index group has been applied accordingly to estimated costs.</p>
Sources:	<p>*All estimates are based on ASG's extensive desktop research. ASG believes these estimates are reasonable and conservative figures which represent the range of costs a student may encounter while studying at university.</p> <p>*ASG has used research from a range of sources to determine these estimates, including the Australian Government's Department of Education, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA), and various universities across Australia.</p>
ASG's University Costs data:	<p>ASG's university costs estimates are available from ASG's website—www.asg.com.au. ASG encourages parents to estimate the future costs of their children's education using ASG's University Costs Calculator—www.asg.com.au/calculator</p> <p>ASG provides the media with estimated costs associated with a student starting university in 2015 and 2033. 2033 represents the year that most children born in 2015 will attend their first year of university. This information is available at: www.asg.com.au/unicosts</p>
General costs categories:	ASG's university costs estimates comprise two general types of data and information: career information or course costs, and living expenses estimates.
Career information/course costs:	ASG's university costs estimates provide parents with a diverse choice of careers. Each career requires admittance into one of several courses for between three and six years full-time study. Each course is allocated a particular band with a dollar value. The band for each course determines the amount the Australian Government requires each student to contribute for their university study. Most students defer their fees by using the Australian Government's HECS-HELP loan scheme. Note that the careers and the pathways to qualifications are indicative only. Students may choose one of many different study pathways to qualify for any particular career. The subjects required to achieve a qualification in any course may require undertaking subjects classified from different bands and a different student contribution assigned to each subject.
Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF):	The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) was introduced by the Australian Government to cover services such as sporting and recreational activities, employment and career advice, childcare, financial advice and food services. Students are able to defer payment of the fee using the Australian Government's SA-HELP scheme and have the deferred amount added to their HECS-HELP debt. It is at the discretion of the university as to how much they charge. The maximum amount of \$286 is for full-time students and an adjusted amount will apply to part-time students. The SSAF will be indexed each year. ASG has indexed this figure by the Tertiary CPI index projected to increase by an average annual rate of 5.28% over the next 32 years.
Living expenses:	While undergraduate course costs can be deferred, university students have to source the funds to meet the costs of their living expenses. One of the main determinants of university students is what type of accommodation they're living in. While living in the family home is one of the cheapest options, many students need to live away from home while they study. ASG's university costs provides estimates for halls of residence at university, living in shared rental housing, or boarding through homestay. Costs for living in halls of residence or homestay are not included in this summary sheet. However these can be found using ASG's University Costs Calculator— www.asg.com.au/calculator
Textbooks, stationery, printing & photocopying:	The estimates for textbooks, stationery, printing and photocopying, etc. are based on the requirements for a full-time student annually. This amount will vary greatly depending on the course. An amount of \$1006 is allocated to textbooks, stationery, printing, and photocopying each year based on average annual estimates provided by selected universities on their websites. Due to the wide variety of equipment requirements for courses, equipment costs have been excluded from these estimates. Some courses have special equipment requirements. Medicine, dental science, optometry and music have significant equipment costs. Students and their parents should budget for specialist equipment as required.
Computer and internet:	Computer and internet costs will vary according to the computer purchased and internet plan established. This calculation assumes a low-end laptop computer is bought new and the cost spread over three years with an allocation of \$161 per year, totalling \$482. Software costs are based on the purchase of Microsoft Office at a price of \$99 spread over three years resulting in a cost of \$33 per year. In respect to internet costs, a medium-volume mobile broadband account is established with downloads of up to 4GB per month at a monthly cost of \$30 and annual cost of \$360. Total computer and internet costs per year are estimated to be \$554 (\$194 for students in Halls of Residence who often have their internet costs included in their fees).
Establishment costs - Family home:	No establishment costs have been included for students living in the family home with their parents.
Establishment costs - Halls of residence:	The costs associated with halls of residences include the amount each college includes as a refundable bond. It also includes compulsory annual fees, due at the beginning of each year. Bonds are held or refunded depending on the condition of the premises and/or breakage costs or repairs. This bond fee differs depending on the college of residence. Compulsory annual fees vary significantly across halls (while some halls have no compulsory annual fees, others have multiple). Figures are based on the cost collected from at least four different accommodation options for each state. Where figures from different universities were not available, costs from different campuses or accommodation options were used. The total cost figure is provided as an average of the halls reviewed. This figure is used as an average to provide an indication of possible cost.
Establishment costs - Shared independent:	Shared establishment costs include four weeks' rent as a refundable bond where three people share the bond amount. Add to this two weeks of rent payable in advance plus an estimate for the purchase of furniture and household equipment. Bond monies are held or refunded depending on the condition of the premises and/or breakage costs or repairs. This bond fee differs depending on the place of residence. This figure is used as an average to provide an indication of possible costs.
Establishment costs - Homestay Australia placement fee:	There are numerous homestay providers in Australia. These providers arrange and supervise local and overseas student boarding arrangements in family homes during post-secondary study at university or other educational institutions. Under a homestay arrangement, students live with the host family in their home. They are usually provided with their own room and have access to other household facilities. The establishment fee (placement fee) differs depending on the provider. Estimated homestay establishment costs are an average of the fees charged by up to four different providers or options in each state. This figure is used as an average to provide an indication of possible cost.
University halls of residence:	Costs for halls of residence vary considerably. Costs are purely indicative and will depend upon the halls of residence selected. Halls of residence can be offered as fully-catered, partially-catered or self-catered. Estimated figures are based on students organising their own meals (self-catered) while staying on campus. There are also differences in the number of weeks halls remain open to students, ranging from 32 to 52 weeks. Figures are based on the average cost collected from different accommodation options for each state. Where figures from different universities were not available, costs from different campuses or accommodation options were used. These figures provide an indication of possible cost.
Shared independent:	Costs for the shared independent category are based on share house costs for a three-bedroom home between three students. The weekly rental costs are based on information obtained from the Real Estate Institute of Australia - Quarterly Median Rents of Three Bedroom Houses Let (historic data at September 2014 from REMF5 Market Report www.reia.com.au). The indexation amounts are calculated at the compound annual growth rate averaged over the past two years. There are minor discrepancies between the weekly rental costs per person and the per annum rental costs per person due to figures being rounded off to the nearest dollar.
Homestay:	Main meals are generally provided by the host family, while the amount of board differs depending on the provider. Estimated figures are an average of the board charged by different providers or options in each state. This figure is used as an average to provide an indication of possible cost.
Groceries and food:	Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) - Household Expenditure Survey, Australia 2009-10, persons living in households where the main source of income is government pensions and allowances equivalised expenditure data for individuals receiving unemployment and study payments - food and non-alcoholic beverages. In order to obtain an estimate for 2015, the 2009-10 figure of \$81 per week was indexed by a projected increase in the ABS CPI Food Index from March 2010 to March 2015 of 7.89% to provide an estimated 2015 weekly figure of \$87.39.
Food - Snacks:	Allows for students to budget \$10.20 per day, four days a week, to purchase snacks. This figure is based on three items (food or drink) per day.
Utilities and household services:	Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) - Household Expenditure Survey, Australia 2009-10, persons living in households where the main source of income is government pensions and allowances equivalised expenditure data for individuals receiving unemployment and study payments - domestic fuel and power (\$16), and household services and operations categories (\$25) in 2009-10, totalling \$41 per week. In order to obtain an estimate for 2015, the 2009-10 figure of \$41 per week was indexed by a projected increase in the ABS CPI Utilities Index from March 2010 to March 2015 of 41.29% to provide an estimated 2015 weekly figure of \$57.93.
Public transport:	Public transport costs vary across cities and states and with the distance travelled. In Melbourne, the cost for a Victorian Student Pass is \$525 for the year. Students should allow a substantially higher amount to run a car. Many universities suggest riding a bike to reduce transport costs further.
Leisure and entertainment:	Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) - Household Expenditure Survey, Australia 2009-10, persons living in households where the main source of income is government pensions and allowances equivalised expenditure data for individuals receiving unemployment and study payments - recreation and miscellaneous entertainment expenses of \$64 in 2009-10. In order to obtain an estimate for 2015, the 2009-10 figure of \$64 per week was indexed by a projected increase in the ABS CPI Leisure and Entertainment Index from March 2010 to March 2015 of 1.08% to provide an estimated 2015 weekly figure of \$64.69.
Ancillary expenses:	The ancillary costs and expenses amounts were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) - Household Expenditure Survey, Australia 2009-10. Persons living in households where the main source of income is government pensions and allowances equivalised expenditure data for individuals receiving unemployment and study payments. The expenditure categories of clothing and footwear (\$15), medical care and health expenses (\$10), personal care (\$7), and miscellaneous goods and services (\$21) totalled \$53 for 2009-10. In order to obtain an estimate for 2015, the 2009-10 figure of \$53 per week was indexed by a projected increase in the ABS CPI All Groups Index from March 2010 to March 2015 of 14.88% to provide an estimated 2015 weekly figure of \$60.89.
Indexation:	<p>To provide these estimates, 2015 costs are increased at an average growth rate, based on the past five years of the relevant Consumer Price Index (CPI). Projecting future economic performance is not ASG's area of expertise and it makes no claims to this effect. Nevertheless, an allowance for inflation must be made in order to provide meaningful estimates of future university costs. The projected costs are all in current dollar terms, as this is the basis which most consumers understand. There has been no adjustment for the time value of money. Future price movements will be subject to factors such as the dollar exchange rate, government policy, and other factors which ASG makes no attempt to predict. For this calculator, CPI projections have been made 32 years ahead. Since different types of costs increase at different rates, a different index was used for each cost type.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tertiary education is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 5.28% over the next 32 years. • Textbooks, stationery, printing and photocopying have been indexed by the Books CPI Sub-Index and are projected to decrease at an average annual rate of 0.12% over the next 32 years. • Computers and computer-related costs have actually dropped over the past five years, and are projected to continue decreasing at an annual rate of 3.80% over the next 32 years, as technology improves and is more widely adopted according to the Computing and Telecommunications Sub-Index. • Groceries - food, beverages, household requirements and snacks are projected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.94% over the next 32 years. • Utilities are projected to increase at an average annual rate of 8.21% over the next 32 years. • Leisure and Entertainment is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 0.12% over the next 32 years. • Public transport is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 3.57% over the next 32 years. • Renting is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 3.70% over the next 32 years. This CPI calculation has been applied to halls of residence costs, shared independent living (renting), and homestay. • The All Groups CPI Index is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 2.55% over the next 32 years.